March 2009 to May 2009 (Volume 25)





March 2009 (Volume 25)







Photo History

Page 3



It is that time again for gathering my thoughts and looking at previous albums, looking at the photos I have taken since the end of the previous album. This crystallises and focuses my thoughts and puts a time perspective to the current album. I think about the current political climate, family issues and sprinkle in a seasoning tempered by the mood I am in at the time of writing.

I guess as a personal 'Photo History" this is the best way to go about it.

Quite a lot has happened since the last album, the most poignant and sad is the death of our great friend Julia. I will not grieve for her because I remember her with a great feeling of happiness and her irreverence will not allow me to be morose. She would say "if you don't smile I'll come and haunt you."

Strangely enough I will always remember her face when she came out of our downstairs loo saying" everyone can see me sitting on the loo...you should have curtains....." We laughed until the tears came and she laughed at herself...that is Julia and that is the great happy friend I will remember. She deteriorated so rapidly but kept her great generosity of spirit up to the last moments and it really affected Lynn and myself and Vivy and Walter



This was only October 2008

We have had lots of fun with Larnie when she stayed with us recently and also with the kids when we went up to Nacton . DP and Angela are very inspirational with their new efforts in the latest venture. Tammy and Ben are wonderful together whether it's Ben spending days having fencing put into the rear garden (at great expense) to prevent the new dog jumping it and only to witness him vaulting this latest high hurdle.more trellis on top was called for. Meanwhile Tammy was celebrating her birthday (yes 40^{th} !!!) in Miami (where else) with Larnie for a great week courtesy of hubby.

We find our friends are more valued than ever and I guess that is a product of age. An evening out (or at home) with any of our great friends is so much fun and it seems that we all enjoy the time together. A train trip to 'Sarfend' with Martin & Maxine and a few days in Exmoor with them was a laugh from start to finish. We had a wonderful family day out to celebrate David's 75^{th} birthday at Duxford Airfield. Judie celebrated her 65^{th} at The Canal



Museum with her usual flair and it was a fantastic evening...we expect nothing less with our Jude.

We had the pleasure of a hot Sunday bbq here with all the Ludlow clan and respective husbands - It is so lovely to have kept these friendships for almost my whole life. Jo and Mum also came to complete the day.

We also enjoyed some great weather walking on the Heath with Vivy, Walter and Norma again friends of 'long standing' and a lunch at Marion's with her superb cooking was enjoyed with Judy and Gordon as well.

We enjoyed The Shoreham Duck Race on bank holiday but it was a bit much for Mum and we later enjoyed her 89th birthday when we took her to Oslo Court for a fabulous lunch.

Politically and economically the country seems top lurch from one disaster to the next and the 'expenses saga' is still filling our papers on the long running exposure with every day seeming to reveal more and more corruption from 'honourable' members of parliament that make bank heists seem like robbing the piggy bank. Every day more 'names' are professing mistakes and oversights and showing how semantics can be deployed by these masters of 'the spoken word'. Us mere yokels possibly utilising the words 'dishonest' 'fiddling' or lying as being more apt. Never has the phrase " a different world" been used more often... Giving the money back seems to make it all ok and meanwhile honest folk have a custodial sentence for TV licence offences... This just underlines what I feel about politics and politicians. Yes, there are some (I feel very few) that are genuine and act with ideological fervour but their light is dimmed by the blinding spotlight of the vast majority.

The 'credit crunch' seems to be eating away at certain sectors of our economy and the car industry is decimated. I feel that that is also a product of overproduction and the inability to provide cars that people actually wanted at prices they can afford. There will be a viable car industry again but it will be very different...watch this space...I think that this may also be a turning point in housing. The adage "Every Englishman's home is his castle may change to every "Every Englishman's rented home is his castle. I think with the cost of land escalating combined with the cost of building added to the cost of borrowing will only allow young buyers to rent rather than buy. This is acceptable all over Europe and will be the 'norm' here quite soon I am sure. A matter of necessity if not of desire.

As anyone reading these Photo-History's over the years will be aware - I am increasingly concerned about being watched. I know that one is always told "if you are not doing anything wrong what is the matter with surveillance??" This is a very dangerous philosophy and one should look at the deeper implications. Who is watching...why are they watching ?? and what do 'they' do with the information they are collating. And more importantly - who is watching them?? "Knowledge is power and maybe it is power in the wrong hands. I am not paranoid but it is frightening the level of sophistication of information technology already in existence.



Page 5 Photo History



Face recognition software enables computer photographic images to be matched to images scanned at any mass entry area: airports, stations etc. This is ostensibly to prevent terrorism ..but is that not the 'excuse' for all surveillance and secret measures nowadays. Yes it is required and necessary but it is also the cover for many other uses (I remember couples were being 'spied on' to check whether they actually lived in the school catchment area that they had professed to reside in.) I actually filmed a local authority *CCTV* camera car filming an 'alleged' traffic offence but in a situation where he was causing an <u>actual</u> traffic hazard.







Cars being forced into the centre of the road by the CCTV surveillance vehicle "enforcing"......himself parked on a double yellow line below a parking restriction sign

When we reported this to the relevant authority we were told this was 'enforcement' which they obviously interpreted as 'legal' and the facts were not considered. A small example of what I see as a very big problem for the future. Thin end of the wedge. Enough of my moaning...I am $p^{******}g$ in the wind so I will say "yes sir, no sir and continue on my merry way...

NOT in order...more will follow... Great family ...great weather and peas in pods to nosh..what more can an OAp...sorry senior Citizen want.

Just a quicky... in future I will put a few ..say ten .."What I Love" and "What I Hate" personal examples in the preface to each volume. Maybe it will help to keep this grumpy old man off the streets



	What I Love	What I Hate
1	Smell of night-scented	The mess of food-related rubbish and litter in
	jasmine/wallflowers	the tubes
2	The laughter of my kids & their kids	Antisocial behaviour of any kind
3	Lynn giving me an unexpected kiss	"Politically- Correct" behaviour and "Human
		Rights" given as the excuse for everything
4	An email from a customer expressing	When eventually finding the 'responsible person'
	satisfaction	being told "sorry" without conviction and
		knowing nothing will change
5	The great views and exhilaration	The endless list of telephone optionsnone of
	when walking to Heddon's Mouth,	which apply and then being disconnected after
	watching the tide come in and	an endless wait
	darkness descend	
6	Gardening and relaxing at home	The lowering of standards in public life, TV and
		entertainment generally
7	Getting a call from DP and Tam just	Double standards
	to say "hi"	
8	That total "aahh" feeing when I take	Noise pollution when I am "trying to get away
	my shoes off after a hard day	from town"
9	Coming home to Lynn and seeing her	My lack of patienceyes I'm getting betterbut
	smiling greeting	a long way to go
10	Travel without paying - possibly one	Grumpy old men
	of the great plus points of being a	
	senior-citizen	
11		That recorded phone call that disturbs you
		when you least want to be disturbed







6.30am while Lynn and I were having a n early breakfast we saw this Camden High Street sight that is perhaps not seen every day



Larnie and I both deep in concentration







When Larnie stays with us we really have fun. She is an absolute delight and we relate so well. She understands her Grandad's sense of humour (or lack of...) Irony is not wasted on her. She gives as good as she gets.

We went for a great Lee Walk where swans got caught in the current and drifted back faster than they went forward to our endless amusement.. The Lee Navigation is remarkable and well maintained and is now enjoyed by ever larger numbers of people. A real success story













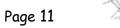




















protective trees



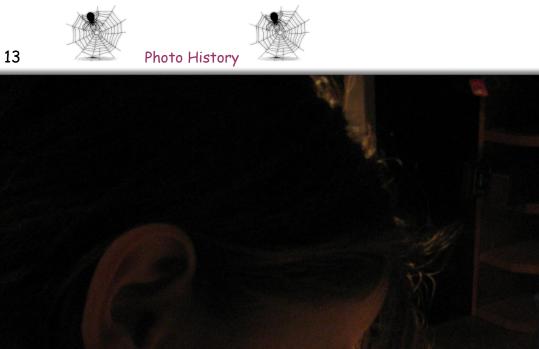
Photo History

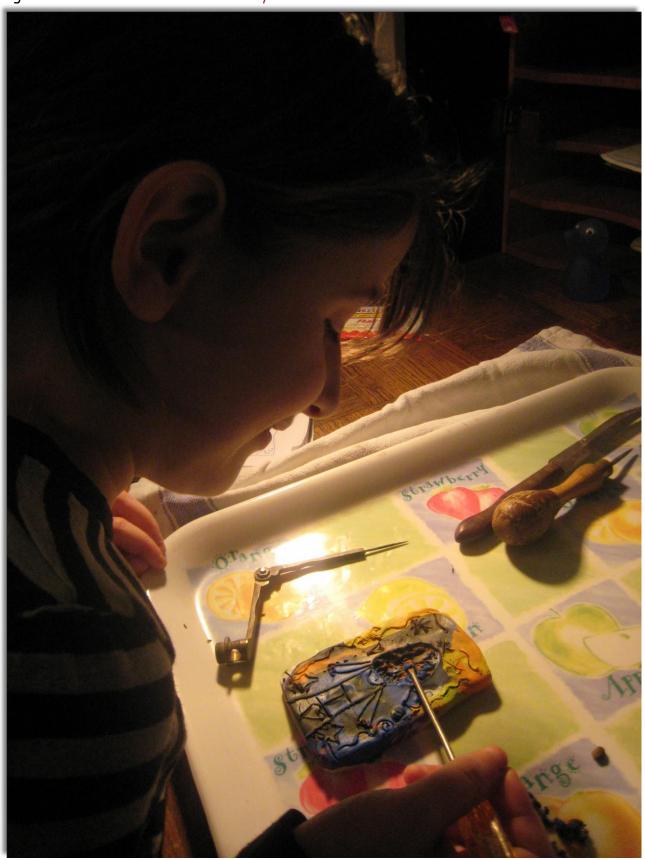




Larnie was fascinated by a plaster model I had done when I was exactly her age so we and we had great fun making one together ...I wonder if she keeps it as long as I kept my original one...













Comparing the models









Page 16 Pho















 ${\it A}$ school project on The Victorian era involved the kids dressing in clothes of the period for the Purim party







In March martin and Maxine stayed with us and as they were 'sea-deprived' living up north miles from the real sea (namely Southend) we were begged, cajoled and finally threatened until we relented and took the poor soles...sorry souls on a train to 'Sarfend' (see the hardback volume now available at all good booksellers). I will not repeat the pictures but there are a few small images below showing what fun we had (but in diminutive stature).





Southend Rock...



























House for Sale...Skinny applicants only considered....







Lynn and I went for an East End walk starting at Columbia Road and wending our way through Brick Lane and Whitechapel and ending around the back streets of Spitalfields. There were so many 'photo opportunities' that I produced another hard back book from these and am very pleased with the results.

In April '09 David and Mary invited the family to Duxford Airfield and Museum for a family lunch to celebrate David's 75th birthday and it was baking hot and a really great day out.





The Speech and the cake....



Photo History













a great lunch that

everyone enjoyed. The museum was wonderful and we even went into Concord. A wonderful family day out....























In April we had the great idea of going into the country for a walk and planned the most vital part of the day...namely the picnic itself. We drove to a valley where the river Beaune ran through great countryside in Hertfordshire and when we arrived we opened the boot to find that we had left the picnic and backpack on the porch at home. Needless to say we passed loads of really great picnic spots.

.....Rather than wasting it we enjoyed the walk then raced home to enjoy the picnic on the blanket spread out in the lounge



A country sculpture.





Photo History



Despite the number of swans we see on our walks we rarely see one on its nest



We remembered that the bank of the river there is home to the largest snails we have ever seen...the roman snail and Lynn

prevented this one being squashed by my large feet...





April '09 and the Wolfgang Club sponsored an outing to Exmoor. As the pictures show we did not stop laughing from start to finish and our friendship is stronger than ever. We stayed at Cuthorne close to Exford where we had stayed before and we were lucky enough to have picked some great weather. This is high on Dunkerry Beacon (one on the few places where my mobile managed to get a reception.

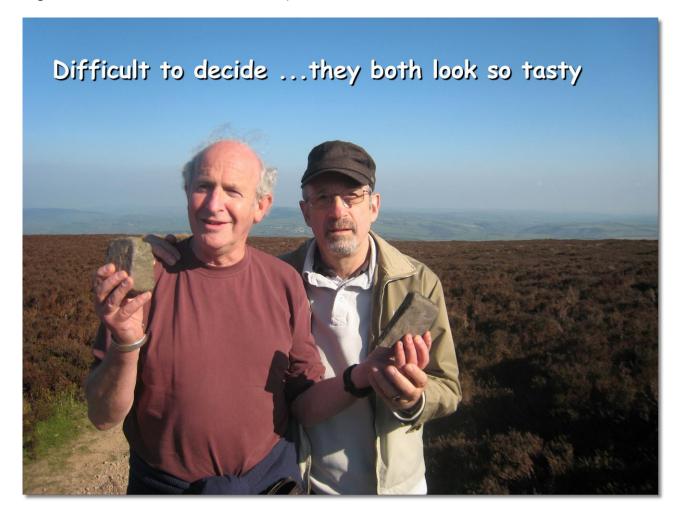












NO COMMENT....

There are so many great photos of this short break please accept my apologies if they are repetitive...but it's my time so yahw boo "raspberry"

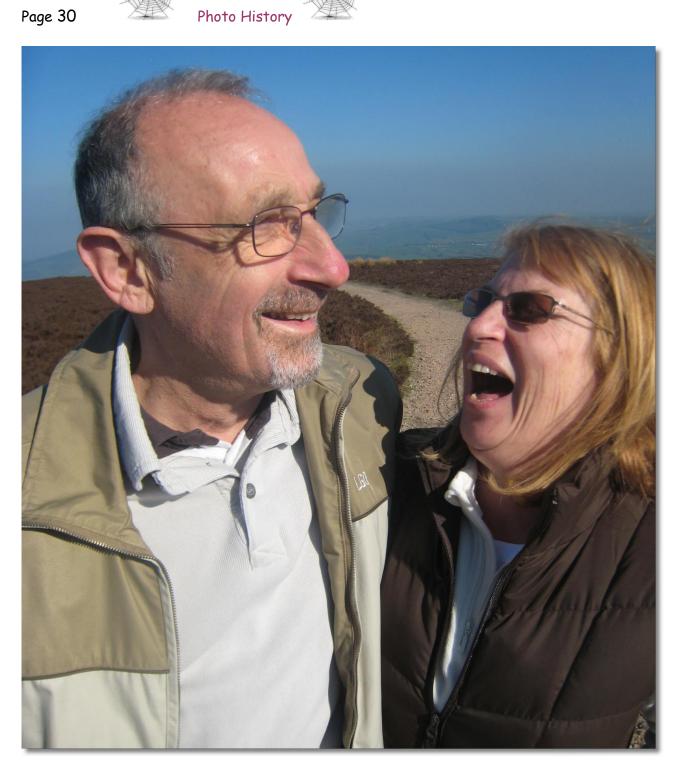






Photo History







A really great happy shot...









We were totally unable to walk far without stopping to eat... I blame that Maxine for that







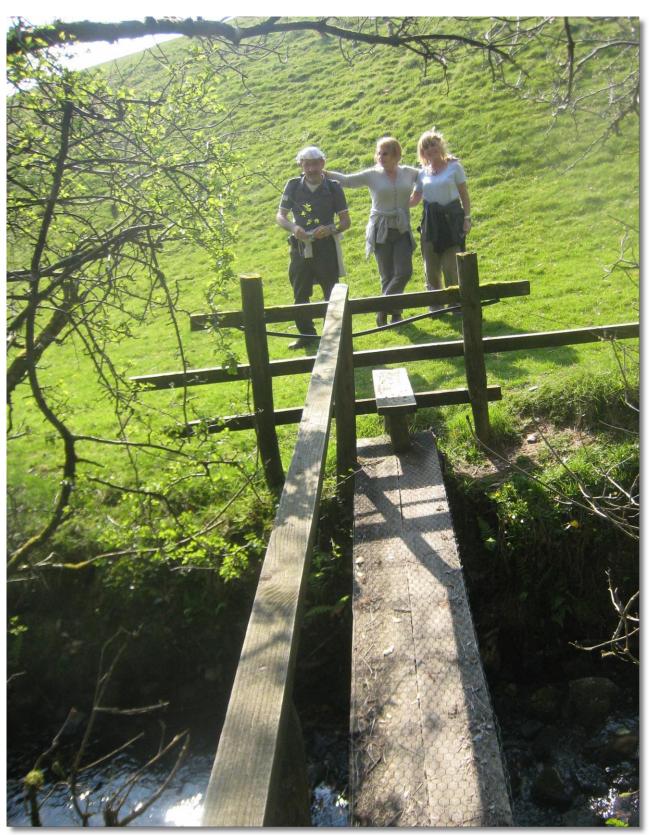


The visible texture revealed in the strata of the old stone path was superb, probably exposed by rain running along the path over the years



The wild flowers in the hedgerows were better than any garden





Sorry about Martin's head attire..."it is the well loved Tatler Englishman on holiday look"









A wonderful walk from Exford...

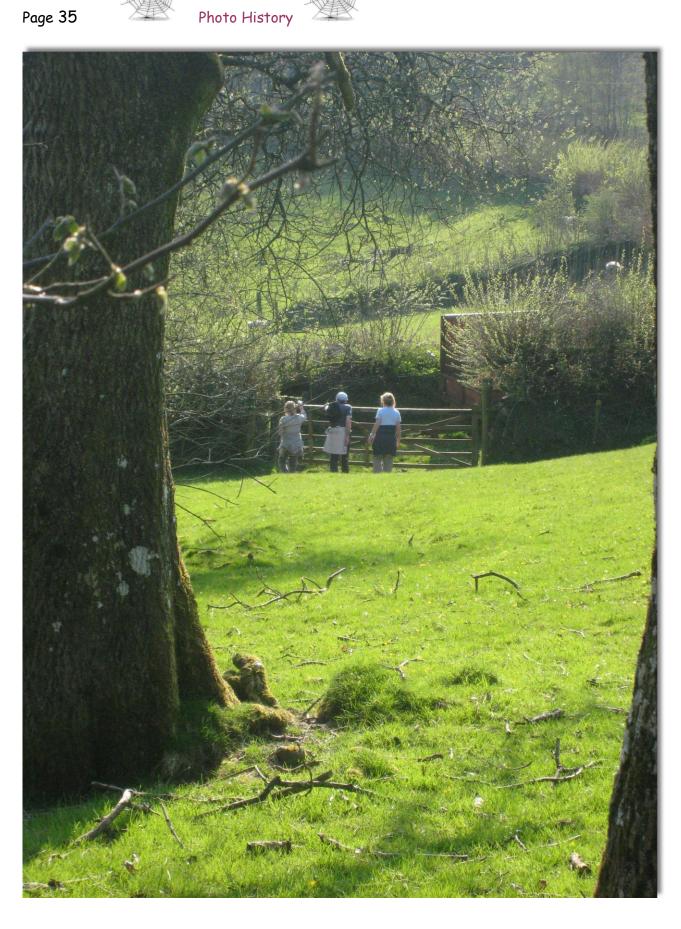








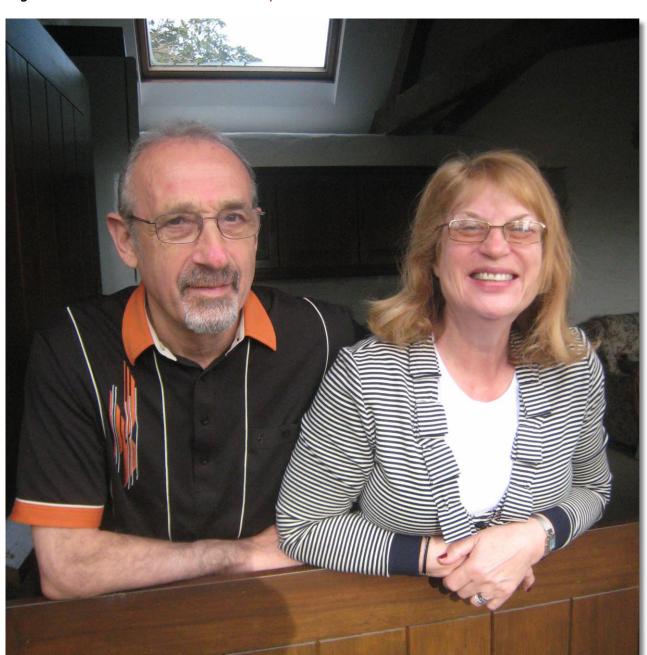












The accommodation is known as "The Cowshed"...We didn't tell them until we got there. Hay..what's the difference



only jokin' !!!!!









View from our bed and breakfast...





A local outside his house...









The starting point for a great day's walk.





Page 39





Bluebells lined the river banks















Photo History





It was not really that big but we didn't want to spoil the story.....(Lynn looks duly impressed)

















The gorse sets off the background well with its vibrant colour





Photo History





The country squire









The money tree...It seems that every traveller who passes this way inserts a coin into the fallen tree to bring luck to his or her family



Page 45





.....and they say that money doesn't grow on trees.





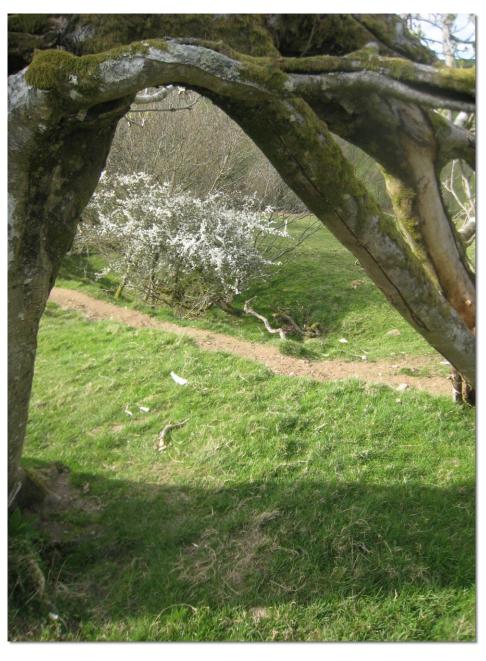


Photo History





What a great spot to stop for an ice cold drink....











This little one was in need of a cuddle...no, the one on the left





Page 48







From Redex to Rednose



A really great fun break....





Photo History







I've seen a lot of changes in milk delivery.....from the milk churn delivery to milk delivery by horse

& cart I still remember Jo the milkman use to arrive with the milk float and he took the nosebag off Soldier (the horse) outside our house and Soldier would slowly chew his way up the road towards Neil's house where Jo would be with the milk bottle carrier which he then

refilled and walked on . Then followed the electric milk float with milk bottles and now the occasional milk float with the milk in 2 – 5 litre plastic bottles. Unfortunately with every corner shop selling milk and the cheaper prices in the supermarket this must surely be a sight that will soon be a thing of the past...hence my picture locally in Palmers Green





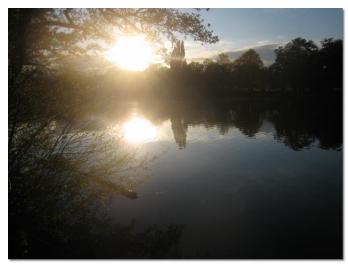




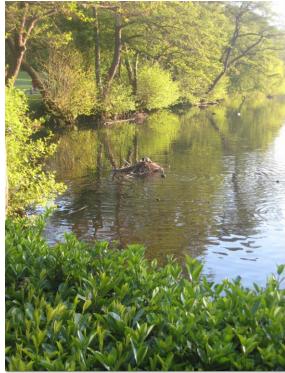


I know Grovelands always features in my Photo History but it is a fantastic antidote to the London scene when we can walk round the lake after a stressful day. It is like an oasis of calm and these shots could be have been taken anywhere. It's great that we have this across the road...











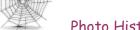




May 2009 was the annual Shoreham duck race. We had missed a few years and Mum came with us to enjoy this one. It has certainly grown in popularity and the kids were all settling their various entries in the water by the bridge. There was even "duck a l'orange" on a silver platter.







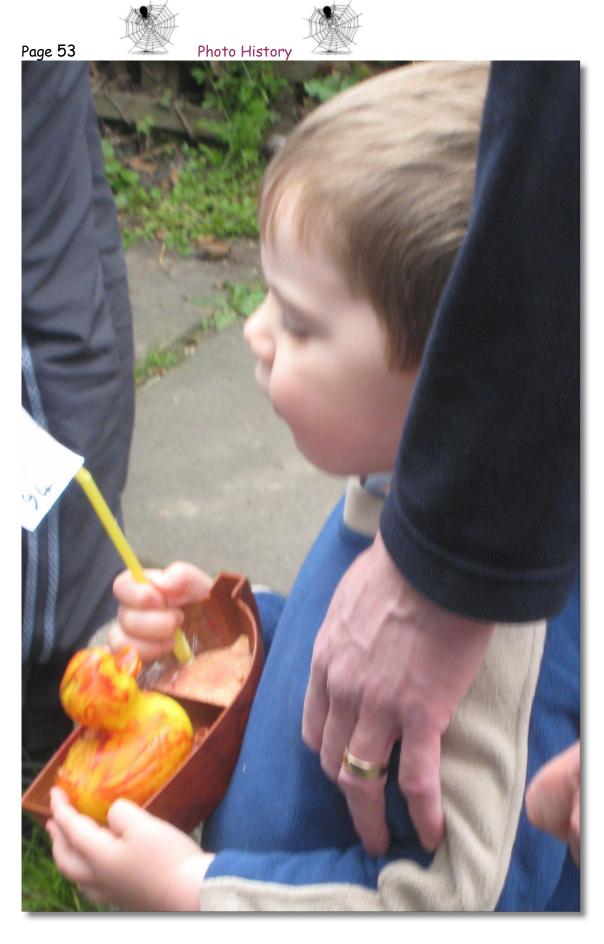












Totally absorbed...he'll remember this day for ever



Page 54





I think the 'grown-ups' were sillier than the kids...that's what it's all about



Simple pleasures and a really fun time for the kids and the onlookers...a fitting end to this volume





